

**Selecting A New Location For Ulster County Family Court And Authorizing A Ballot Proposition On Said Matter – Department Of Public Works**

Referred to: The Public Works and Capital Projects Committee (Chairman Fabiano and Legislators Greene, Litts, Loughran, and Maloney), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, and Maloney)

Chairman of the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee, Dean J. Fabiano, and Deputy Chairman Peter M. Loughran; and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Richard A. Gerentine, and Deputy Chairman Thomas J. Briggs offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Family Court (hereinafter “Family Court”) is currently occupying leased space located at 16 Lucas Avenue, City of Kingston, County of Ulster, State of New York, and designated as SBL No.: 48.330-4-27; and

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster (hereinafter the “County”) desires to remain in compliance with any and all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to Part 34 – Guidelines for New York State Court Facilities – Rules of the Chief Judge, and New York State’s Judiciary Law §39(3)(a), to wit: the County being in compliance with its obligation to provide suitable and sufficient court facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee of the County’s Legislature formed the Family Court Renovation Cost Subcommittee to examine options; and

WHEREAS, the County hired a consultant, C&S Architects, Engineers, and Landscape Architect, PLLC (hereinafter the “Consultant”), to conduct a Facility Location Study regarding the Family Court that provided several options available to the County for housing Family Court and included conceptual cost estimates that suggested that the Business Resource Center (hereinafter the “BRC”) located at 1 Development Court, Town of Ulster, County of Ulster, State of New York, and designated as SBL No.: 48.66-1-6, BRC may be the best option for housing the Family Court; and

WHEREAS, a joint meeting of the Ways and Means and Public Works Committees was held on March 30, 2016 at which a more detailed study to determine the feasibility and costs for locating the Family Court at the BRC was requested; and

WHEREAS, the County engaged the Firm of Alfandre Architecture to provide a program of space, conceptual floor plans, and an estimate of costs for locating the Family Court at the BRC; and

**Resolution No. 287      June 21, 2016**

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WHEREAS, the Firm working with the New York State Office of Court Administration (hereinafter the “OCA”) developed a conceptual plan and cost estimate for locating Family Court at the BRC that concludes the building is highly suitable for use by Family Court and offers the County the most economically feasible option for meeting the needs of the Court; and

WHEREAS, in a letter provided to the County the OCA has stated “the BRC in our view is uniquely suited to be developed into a first rate Family Court facility that complies with the Chief Judge’s facility guidelines....” The letter further sets out the advantages of the BRC including, no disruption to the Court during construction, ample parking, expedited completion and co-location with Social Services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State’s County Law §216, no courthouse now or hereafter located in a city shall be removed beyond the limits of such city without the approval of a proposition therefor by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the County voting thereon at a general or special election; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby determines that a proposition for the approval of the removal of the Family Court, now situated in the City of Kingston, to the BRC in Town of Ulster shall be put before the qualified electors of the County at the November 8, 2016 general election; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this action constitutes a Type II action under the County of Ulster’s State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Type II List that was adopted in Resolution No. 118 on April 20, 2010; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that as per section 3 of the County’s Type II List, these actions do not pose a significant potential environmental impact and may be progressed as Type II actions in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617 of SEQRA; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to New York State’s County Law §216, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall cause a notice of such election to be published in the official newspapers once a week for six (6) weeks previous to the November 8, 2016 General Election; and shall on or before the first day of publication cause such notice to be posted upon the bulletin board at the office of each city and town clerk in the County of Ulster, such notice to contain information as set forth under New York State’s County Law §216; and, be it further

